

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

CHAPMAN *et al.*

Group Art Unit (anticipated): 1722

Appln. No.: tbd

Examiner (anticipated): E. Luk

Filed: December 6, 2001

Parent Appln. No.: 09/541,025

Filed: March 31, 2000

FOR: SOLID IMAGING APPARATUS AND METHOD WITH COATING
STATION

* * * * *

December 10, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application in the manner set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please delete lines 5-8 and substitute therefor:

--The present application is a continuation of Application No. 09/541,025, filed March 31, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/804,449, filed February 21, 1997 (now U.S. Patent 6,174,156 B1), which is a continuation Application No. 07/884,030, filed May 18, 1992 (now U.S. Patent 5,626,919), which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 07/804,269, filed December 5, 1991, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application No. 07/488,095, filed March 1, 1990, now abandoned.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and please add new claims 2-21 as follows:

- 2. (New) A process for forming a three-dimensional object from a photoformable composition having a free surface, said process comprising:
- (a) lifting, at a position between two doctor blades, an amount of said photoformable composition to a position above said surface;
 - (b) depositing at least a portion of said amount onto said surface;
 - (c) leveling at least a fraction of said portion with at least one of said two doctor blades;
 - (d) selectively imaging, after said leveling, at least part of said fraction with radiation; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) through (d).
3. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein said lifting is effected with a movable dispenser comprising at least one of said doctor blades.
4. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein said dispenser comprises a downwardly facing elongated slot.
5. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein said process comprises lifting said amount of said photoformable composition through said slot.
6. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein said process comprises depositing said at least a portion through said slot.
7. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein said radiation includes actinic radiation.

8. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein said radiation includes actinic radiation.
9. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said radiation includes actinic radiation.
10. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein said composition is cationically polymerizable.
11. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein said composition is cationically polymerizable.
12. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said composition is cationically polymerizable.
13. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein said composition comprises ethoxylated trimethylol propane triacrylate.
14. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein said composition comprises ethoxylated trimethylol propane triacrylate.
15. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said composition comprises ethoxylated trimethylol propane triacrylate.
16. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein said composition comprises a urethane acrylate.
17. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein said composition comprises a urethane acrylate.

18. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said composition comprises a urethane acrylate.
19. (New) An article obtained by the process of claim 2.
20. (New) An article obtained by the process of claim 3.
21. (New) An article obtained by the process of claim 6.--

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-21 will be pending of which claim 2 is independent. Claim 1 has been cancelled and new claims 2-21 have been added. Support for new claims 2-21 can be found throughout the application as filed. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to all parent applications. No new matter has been introduced with the above amendments and new claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant Application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing the above, the Examiner believes any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX: VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Lines 5-8 on page 1 have been deleted and replaced with:

--[This] The present application is a continuation of Application No. 09/541,025, filed March 31, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/844,449, filed February 21, 1997 (now U.S. Patent 6,174,156 B1), which is a continuation Application No. 07/884,030, filed May 18, 1992 (now U.S. Patent 5,626,919), which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 07/804,269, filed December 5, 1991, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application No. 07/488,095, filed March 1, 1990, now abandoned.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 2-21 have been added.